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Arizona Latter-day Saints

JUSTSERVE



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Sisters Christensen and Prieto (l to r) along with Elders Reese and Vorkink, of the Arizona Tempe Mission, and volunteer, Jeff Rodgers, sort food as part of a JustServe service project at United Food Bank in Mesa.

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Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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Arizona Latter-day Saints Learn to

JUSTSERVE

A new initiative is giving Arizona Latter-day Saints ample opportunities to serve others and to work shoulder to shoulder within the community to relieve suffering, care for the poor and needy and enhance the quality of life in the community.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

JustServe makes it easy for missionaries, individuals, families, wards and youth groups to find ways to be of service, says Michelle Curry, a member of the Metro Phoenix Public Affairs Council and chair over Community Outreach.

The website, JustServe.org, while created and provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is designed to be used by any community or faith-based organizations that need volunteers as well as by any members of the community who wish to partici-

pate in service projects.

"JustServe matches faith, non-profit, community and governmental organizations that need volunteers with volunteers willing to help. JustServe.org links you to service opportunities in your community so you can make a difference wherever you are and however you want to serve," states the JustServe website.

Michelle, who is a member Ahwatukee Groves Ward, Tempe West Stake and has been instrumental in rolling out the JustServe.org initiative in Arizona,



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo.

Jordan Pendergrass, of the Liahona 5th Ward, Mesa Alma Stake (l), with Tom Coffin, Council President, Chandler First Church of the Nazarene (r), at a service project in which the men of the Liahona 5th Ward completed a remodeling project for the Chandler First Church of the Nazarene.

says, "There is an amazing variety of projects listed on the site, so anyone can find things that suit their particular circumstances. Then if something speaks to you, you can go right to that project and sign up."

For example, one young couple with no children yet and no family in

the area wanted to find a way to participate in some kind of service activity on Christmas day. They found several different projects listed on JustServe.org.

What site visitors won't find is projects that are political in nature or fundraising activities or that would require

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Saints learn to JustServe
Continued from pg. 3

participants to handle money. The site also states clearly that “JustServe is not for proselytizing or publicity—simply a service to help link community volunteer needs with volunteers.”

“As members of the Church, we are good at helping others within our ward or stake, and we do great at helping with disaster relief,” says Michelle, “but a poll conducted by the Church showed that we aren’t especially known for ongoing service within our community.

“When we reach out to lift another person and strengthen them financially, emotionally or physically, something happens within ourselves,” Michelle says. “I love the quote from Bishop Glenn Pace’s conference talk in 1990, when he said, ‘We must reach out beyond the walls of our own church. ... we cannot become the salt of the earth if we stay in one lump in the cultural halls of our beautiful meetinghouses.’”



“Service is an important part of our growth as followers of Christ. It helps us develop the kind of love that will help others come to know Savior more.”

Michelle says the Church refers to JustServe as an initiative rather than a program, because as Elder Lynn G. Robbins of the Presidency of the Seventy said in a coordinating council meeting with Arizona stake presidents, “Charity cannot be made into a program.”

A great deal of work has been done to create the website and the infrastructure for encouraging participation in the initiative, including having community service specialists called in each stake and city specialists (referred to as community outreach specialists) called to help coordinate with the cities and other organizations to get projects listed.

Ultimately, however, it comes down to individuals and families to perform the service, Michelle says. “Justserve.org is presented to the Church members and they take an initiative to do it.»

Fulltime missionaries are also



Photo by Garry Wilmore

Arvey Campbell, assistant ward mission leader in the Peralta Ward, Mesa Alma Stake, prepares to use a weed eater while helping with a community service clean up project.

expected to take the initiative to serve. Missionaries can do up to 10 hours of service per week,” Michelle says.

Each mission now has a JustServe specialist, and missionaries can search JustServe.org themselves to find projects they may be interested in helping with.

“The reception in the communities has been really wonderful,” says Michelle. “We now have a lot of organizations contacting us to learn more.”

John Power is has been called as the

JustServe Community Outreach Specialist – Chandler, meaning he works with various Chandler organizations, including several churches to help them understand how JustServe.org could be of benefit to them.

For example, Chandler Christian Community Center (CCCC) sponsors I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program). This program is

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Saints learn to JustServe
Continued from pg. 4

“centered on the generosity of faith-based organizations in our community who are willing to open their facilities one night a week/or month to provide shelter and a safe place to sleep for homeless individuals and those temporarily without shelter.”

About 10 to 14 times a year, the Chandler, Chandler East, Chandler West, and Mesa Alma Stakes each take food to a local church, where the homeless are being housed under the I-HELP program.

The Mesa Alma Stake recently participated, taking food to Pastor/Chandler City Councilman/Vice Mayor Kevin Hartke’s church, Trinity Christian Fellowship.

Julie Campbell, the Mesa Alma Stake I-HELP Coordinator, reported: “Tonight’s I-Help meal with Kleinman Park Ward went really well. Bishop Martin and his wife were there along with three other adults and their Young Women’s and Young Men’s group. The YW served the food and all ate and mingled with the guests.”

In another community outreach effort, the Liahona 5th Ward, under the direction of Bishop Merino, volunteered to help the Chandler First Church of the Nazarene complete a remodeling

project. Ten men participated, working for approximately five hours to remove a wall to make one larger room, and install a wall to make an office for the Assistant Pastor. After the project, Tom Coffin, the president of the church’s council, said they were extremely pleased and appreciated the help.

Sarah Haines, with Special Olympics, found out just how powerful listing a project on JustServe.org can be.

Brandon Slinker, the Buckeye community outreach specialist, says he had helped her list a project on JustServe site. Less than 20 hours later, she asked him to take it down. When he asked why, she responded, “We just filled up for volunteers for the event, with a good portion coming from your site. I have been very impressed with the turn out of the two events we had posted on the site. I have another event on February 20 on the east side so I will be submitting that to you this week.”

Robin Finlinson helped organize a successful JustServe community blood drive, and Roger Decker, Mesa East community outreach specialist, says he has enjoyed seeing how JustServe has helped the food bank in his area.

“The food bank loves the missionaries so much that they have developed an ongoing relationship with them for service opportunities. Their director loves to show the picture of ‘her mis-



Photo by Thad Seligman

JustServe.org makes it easy for community members of all faiths to find and participate in service projects, such as the blood drive recently held in Chandler, where among those participating were (back row, l to r) Lori Hilliard, account manager at the American Red Cross and Robin Finlinson, stake community service specialist in the Chandler West Stake and (front row, l to r) Laila Johnson and her brother, Jesse Baade, and Shahzad Amjad, President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

sionaries,” Roger says.

He says someone from his stake reported: “Making liaisons with the community partners has been a joy. We took our family to the RSM/Manna Food Bank to help over the holidays. While my husband was taking the food out to the car of an elderly black gentleman, he turned to my husband and said, “Thank you so much for this...I have nothing.” He then hugged

my husband and wept on his shoulder.”

Michelle says the many others that continue to be reported and posted on the website are excellent examples that underscore the fact that: “JustServe.org is a gift to the community, an absolutely wonderful gift.”

“I encourage you to go to JustServe.org right now,” she says. Sign up and then see how you can start being of service to others.”



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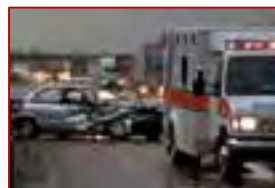
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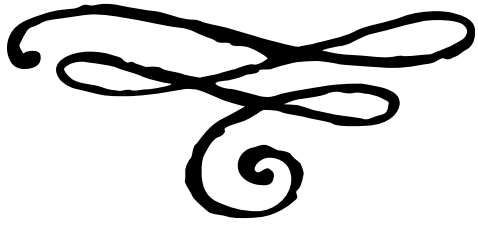
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Phoenix Temple President & Matron Share Their Love for TEMPLE SERVICE



By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The dedication of the Phoenix Arizona Temple on November 16, 2014, also marked the beginning of Russell Stewart Gilliland's formal service as president of Arizona's fifth temple, with his wife, Karen Jones Gilliland, as temple matron.

Serving with the Gillilands are M. Dalton Cannon of the Phoenix North Stake (first counselor), Cannon's wife Betsy (assistant to the matron), Steven Driscoll of the Surprise Stake (second counselor), and Driscoll's wife Nadine (assistant to the matron).

President Gilliland believes having a temple in Phoenix represents an almost indescribable blessing.

"There is an almost universal feeling among the members in this area that this temple is home," He explains, "as much as we love the Mesa Temple, people in this area feel, 'This is where I belong. It's where I really belong.'"

He finds that "strong feeling that we have more than we had before" is an interesting emotion, particularly for long-time Phoenix residents.

Born in Morenci, Ariz., President Gilliland and his family lived for a short time in New Mexico, and one year in Colorado, before moving to Phoenix. He left as a young man to serve a mission in Austria and completed a degree in business administration at Brigham Young University. Nevertheless, he "lived in the same ward—what used to be called the Glendale 2nd Ward, and now the Independence Ward of the Phoenix West Maricopa Stake—since [he] was 10 years old."

While at BYU, he met Karen. "We worked together in the Mutual program. We got along great and became good friends." He graduated in 1972, and "we got married two weeks later," he says.

The couple returned to Phoenix, where he was first called as Executive Secretary to the bishop, then Elders Quorum president, and four years later, as a counselor in the bishopric. He served on the stake high council, as bishop for five years, as a counselor in the stake presidency, then as the Phoenix West Maricopa Stake President for

nine years.

Sister Gilliland served as ward Relief Society, Young Women and Primary president, as a stake seminary supervisor and seminary teacher.

The Gillilands also raised 10 children during that time. They now have 42 grandchildren, with two more on the way.

Together, the couple has served two missions: one beginning in 2005 when President Gilliland was the Ohio, Columbus Mission President and one beginning in 2012, when he presided over the Nauvoo, Illinois Mission.

They also served in the temple for a number of years, him as an ordinance worker, sealer and second counselor in Mesa Arizona Temple presidency, and her an ordinance worker and assistant to the matron.

The Gilliland's love for the temple increased as their attendance became more frequent.

"We started going to the temple every week years ago. It has been a great blessing in our lives, for our relationship and our children," President Gilliland explains. "Being in the temple is the best feeling in the world."

Sister Gilliland agrees, saying she appreciates most "the love that permeates the temple."

"Anyone could blossom in that environment. It makes you be the best your can be," she says. "Of course, we want to do things perfectly, but most of all, we want people to feel His love, then they will become perfect." While the world conveys the idea, "Change and we will love you, Heavenly Father says, 'I love you,' and then we change. He knows it's love that does it."

Brother Gilliland agrees this process of change is an important aspect of temple service.

"We learn who we are, where we sit in God's plan," he says. "We learn it is not sufficient to just live a good life. As Isaiah says, 'He will teach of us of His ways and we will walk in His path.' The power of the covenants and ordinances of the temple is that we become like Him."



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Serving as the presidency of the recently dedicated Phoenix Arizona Temple are (l to r) M. Dalton Cannon, Jr., first counselor, his wife, Betsy, assistant to the matron; Russell M. Gilliland, president, and his wife Karen, matron; Steven L. Driscoll, second counselor, and his wife Nadine, assistant to the matron.

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Long-time Arizona Educator & Leader Passes Away at 87

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Dr. George N. Smith, a Mesa resident, longtime educational leader and faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, passed away December 10, 2014 at 87.

Dr. Smith's son Scott, former mayor of Mesa, says until his father suffered a serious fall on December 9, he was mentally sharp and fiercely independent and had "lived by himself...in great physical health."

Scott describes his father as "one of the most accomplished educators in the history of Arizona," serving as superintendent of schools for nearly 35 years, first in Flowing Wells and then as head of Mesa Public Schools for 18 years. "He was a true leader who loved people," Scott continues, adding that he was also exemplary in his private life.

"My dad was my best friend, my

mentor, advisor, biggest fan and rock," Scott says.

Born on February 11, 1927, in Safford, Arizona, George was the third son and youngest child of Howard and Lillie Smith. He graduated in 1944 from Thatcher High School, where he had excelled in sports and was recognized as one of the finest basketball players in the state.

George enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1945. At the end of World War II, he returned to Arizona and attended Gila College for a short time.

He and Mary Alice Ellsworth, who was from Safford, were married on June 3, 1947, in the Mesa Arizona LDS Temple.

George and Mary Alice moved to Utah, where George played basketball for the national powerhouse University of Utah and ultimately graduated with



Photo courtesy of Scott Smith

Dr. George Smith, well-known Arizona educator, with his children (l to r) Scott, David, Jennifer Johnson, and Diana Thom, shortly before George passed away in December.

a degree in education. He later earned a master's degree from Arizona State and an Ed.D at Stanford University and Arizona State.

His first job in education was in the small farming town of Arlington, Arizona. At only 22 years old, George served as head teacher/principal of the area school. Four years later, he was named superintendent of Tucson's Flowing Wells School District. During his 14-year tenure, the district became nationally known for excellence. In

1967, George began his 18 years as superintendent of the Mesa Unified School District. Under his leadership, the district grew to become the largest in Arizona and won numerous state and national awards for excellence and innovation.

After retiring from the Mesa district, George served as an Executive Vice President of Northern Arizona University. In 1988, he left, becoming the

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WINNERS

of Church Music Competition Hear Song Performed at Temple Square

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Shauna Hart, currently of the Greenfield Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake and her sister, Tamara Whitmer, of the Greenfield Park Ward, Kimball East Stake, watched their mother, Edna Ray Montierth, put on amazing Road Shows back when they were standard events among Latter-day Saints. After 10 years, Sister Montierth was called to become the Stake Road Show Director, and Shauna stepped up to fill her mother's shoes as the new Director. Helping the youth showcase their talents and using many of her own, Shauna realized that the

Lord had given her a gift. Music has been a part of her life ever since.

The sisters grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, with two other siblings and today they both live in Mesa. Shauna's first instrument was an autoharp when she began teaching music at a preschool at age 19. Then, she and Tamara began raising families and creating children's musicals. They started a performing group for children ages 5-12 called "Give Us a Hand," which performed around the valley.

For over 20 years, inspirational songs have been coming to Shauna and



Photo Courtesy of Shauna Hart

Sisters, Tamara Whitmer (l) and Shauna Hart enjoyed being recognized during the LDS Church Songwriting Awards Night at the Assembly Hall on Temple Square in Salt Lake City.

she is grateful to create music that stirs the hearts of others and brings them closer to the spirit. Tamara was able to help her sister write out the songs on music manuscript paper and help with arranging. After about the 5th song, Rebecca Jennings joined in as co-arranger and formatted the songs with her songwriting software.

Along the way, Sister Hart began working with Brent Jorgensen, a choral editor, who urged her to enter her work in the church's music competition. Shauna, Tamara and Rebecca are listed as the winners of the Award of Merit for the church's 2014 songwriting competition. Shauna and her sister, Tamara, both went to Salt Lake City to hear Shauna's song, One Clear Night, performed by the Ogden Institute Choir at the Assembly Hall on Temple Square.

The sisters were also treated to a special awards dinner with other winning composers. "It was exciting to meet other artists and members of the LDS music department. I enjoyed hearing how the institute choir interpreted my music," says Sister Hart.

Those interested in the church's

annual music competition can find information at www.lds.org/music. There are numerous categories, including: hymns, inspirational, instrumental, children's songs and more. This is the second time one of Sister Hart's songs has won. She and Rebecca Jennings received the Award of Distinction for her song, Quest for Excellence, for strings and vocal performance in 2010.

The winners retain rights to their music but people can go to the church music website and download the winning songs and sheet music. Shauna loves sharing her music and has her own website where some songs can be downloaded and others can be purchased at <http://www.hartsongs.net/>

Sister Hart is currently the program director over the arts at the Charter School "Encore Arts Academy" in East Mesa. Her missionary musical, "One Heart, One Purpose," has been performed twice and will be again in November of this year.

Tamara works at Desert Banner as a labor and delivery educator. She uses music and drama in her classes to teach different techniques.

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Well-known musician and composer, *Mildred West Wiseman Packard* Passes Away at 92

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The Mesa mother of eight, known as “Milli” to family and friends, was widely recognized as a “remarkably talented” musician and composer and an example of gospel living.

Milli was born February 9, 1922, in Lakeside, Arizona, to Karl Bates West and Irma Hansen.

From the time she was young, music was a priority in her life. Around 1939, she had her first “formal” music education.

“Her parents couldn’t really afford this expense – it was a huge extravagance in the late ‘30s—but they rounded up enough money to get her to Arizona State Teachers College [now NAU],” says Milli’s daughter, Laura Jones.

Milli graduated in 1943 with a bachelors in Music and Elementary Education. More than 30 years later, she went back to school, studying music for three years at Mesa Community College and learning to play several instruments, including drums.

She taught English at a private school for many years, was an excellent seamstress and was actively involved in the community.

However, it was her music that underscored every aspect of her life. She was a sought-after soloist and, in the early ‘70s, she recorded the Beatitudes solo for the Temple Easter Sunrise Pageant. She sang with the MCC community choir the Arizona Mormon Choir, and then, until she was in her 90s, performed with the Arizona Desert Choir.

She wrote hundreds of songs and

did what she could to share them with others.

“(My songs) don’t do anybody any good sitting in my closet. I want people to sing them, to enjoy them,” the East Valley Tribune quoted Milli as saying.

In her mid-80s, Milli helped write the music for “1856,” a musical about the pioneers by Cory Ellsworth. In December 2011, when she was 89, Symphony of the Southwest played her original song, “Holy Child,” at its annual holiday concert at the Mesa Arts Center.

“Music was huge part of her life and she used it to bear her testimony of things she knew to be true. The gospel was the guiding force in her life, and she considered her talents a conduit for the light and truth she felt within,” Laura says. “She had great faith in her Savior, which is evident not only in the music she wrote, but in her words and actions.”

“Mom loved unconditionally and was accepting of people from all walks of life,” Laura continues. “She never quit welcoming people into her family fold and was a second mother to many.”

Milli’s niece, Debbie West Coon, was a recipient of Milli’s love.

“I’m grateful to my aunt Millie for being there for me every time I needed her,” Debbie says. “She was a big part of my life. She was my mentor, my vocal coach, music advisor and editor of my album covers and advertisements. She was ‘the wind beneath my wings.’”

Milli’s grandson, Brian Sandstrom, says, “She saw only good things in people and showed it by always telling

them how wonderful and special they were.”

Another grandson, Danny Jones, says, “She has always been a great example of Christ in my life, always serving others, going out of her way to share important messages of forgiveness and love and gentle reminders of what truly mattered on earth while we’re here.”

Surviving Milli is one sister, Wanda West Palmer, Milli’s eight children, Jennifer Sandstrom, Ernest Schurig (Beverly), Alma Schurig (Janet), Sam Schurig (Jan), Irma Bigler, Laura Jones (David), Rita Lee (Mike), and

Lisa Wyatt (Wayne), 40 grandchildren and more than 65 great-grandchildren.



Photo courtesy Laura Jones

Well-known musician and composer, Mildred West Wiseman Packard died January 17 at 92.

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Arizona Filmmaker Talks LDS Comedy 'Inspired Guns'

By Amber Topping
The Beehive

Arizona filmmaker Adam White didn't initially intend to make a comedy about LDS missionaries caught in a case of mistaken identity as seen in "Inspired Guns." Rather it was originally intended to be a drama. But "in order for it to be believable it kind of had to be a comedy," Adam explains. What he did intend from the start, however, was to make "good quality, clean entertainment" not always readily available to an LDS audience.

"Inspired Guns" tells the story of two missionaries, Elder Fisher and Elder Johnson, who begin teaching two members of the mafia who believe they "are messengers from the boss" with hidden messages inside the Book of

Mormon about their next job. Then it gets even crazier when "the FBI thinks the elders are involved with the mafia."

The original inspiration came eleven years ago during Adam's mission in Argentina when he and his companion taught "people that were sitting in this park." He "thought it would be funny if [they] interrupted some kind of mob hit." From there, "the wheels just started turning."

Although Adam finished the script while he was in college, he waited to pursue filmmaking because he had a family to support. The right opportunity later came in 2009 when he was able to sell one of his businesses. "Now's the time to pursue this, like I always



Photo Courtesy of Adam White

Arizona filmmaker Adam White (Left) directs Arizona actor David Lassetter as Elder Fisher (Center) and Dashiell Wolf as Elder Johnson (Right) in "Inspired Guns."

wanted to," he recalls. "And that's what I did."

Adam "used talent agencies in Utah" to cast the film, though a few of the main characters were "hand-picked" like popular LDS actor Rick Macy as the mob boss and Dashiell Wolf (who he worked with before)

for Elder Johnson. In a "funny coincidence," David Lassetter, the actor he discovered from ComedySportz to play the lead, Elder Fisher, "actually grew up in the same neighborhood" as him in Gilbert, Arizona. Even stranger was the

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From Candy Bomber to “Meet the Mormons”

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

If you haven't heard of Gail Halvorsen, maybe you know him by one of his nicknames: “the Candy Bomber,” “Uncle Wiggly Wings,” or “the Chocolate Flyer.”

Or perhaps you know him as one of the stars of Meet the Mormons, a movie released last fall by the Church.

His claim to fame may have taken place over 66 years ago, but his legacy lives on to bless generations.

It's a story that never gets old: A kind-hearted U.S. pilot drops candy-loaded parachutes to starving German children—a chocolate bar or a stick of gum that means much more than temporary sustenance. It brings hope to a devastated country in the aftermath of war.

Gail, who grew up in Utah and Idaho, joined the United States Army Air Corps in June 1942. In 1948, he participated in the Berlin Airlift, or “Operation Vittles,” as it was also known. He, along with hundreds of other pilots, distributed food to the people of Berlin. One day, he took the opportunity to share two sticks of gum with some children gathered near the fence line watching the planes come in.

He says of the experience, “The result was unbelievable. Those with the gum tore off strips of the wrapper and gave them to the others. Those with the strips put them to their noses and smelled the tiny fragrance. The expression of pleasure was immeasurable. I was so moved by what I saw and their



Photo by Kirk Tenney

Gail Halvorsen poses in front of the “Candy Bomber” Christmas display with Adam Nelson, the Special Projects Manager for Deseret Book.

incredible restraint that I promised them I would drop enough gum for each of them the next day.”

And “Operation Little Vittles” was born. It lives on as a symbol of human kindness.

Fast forward to the present and the Candy Bomber, Gail Halvorsen, is one of six Latter-day Saints' stories selected to be introduced to the world. Meet the Mormons premiered to a national audi-

ence, and is now shown at theaters in all Church visitors' centers and historic sites.

Gail admits, “I was already self-conscious about the attention, but when the film came out things really exploded! Mail from around the United States arrived and some from overseas. Invitations to speak, more than I can accept!”

Continued on pg. 15



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Candy Bomber
Continued from pg. 14

He continues, "How a boy from the farm could be asked to participate in such an incredible film seems inconceivable. My Dad and Mom would never believe it! The real joy came from meeting ... the other truly exceptional people in the group. To work with such accomplished film makers as Blair True and Jeff Roberts was more than the frosting on the cake."

His family recently returned from a cruise. "I was astonished by the number of people who stopped me for a photo op! Some asked for chocolate!" he says.

Gail, now 94 years old, and living out his not-so-quiet retirement in a small Arizona town with his wife Lorraine, firmly believes in the verse found in the Doctrine & Covenants: Out of small and simple things proceedeth that which is great.

"Two sticks of gum are about as small as it gets," he explains. "The gratitude of children is as great as it gets."

He adds, "Those two sticks changed my life forever."

Learn more about Gail Halvorsen's amazing life experiences at www.wigglywings.weebly.com Learn about the movie at www.meetthemormons.com

"Meet the Mormons" Film Now Showing in Visitors' Centers

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

"Meet the Mormons," the documentary-style movie, originally designed and produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to dispel misconceptions about Mormons, is now showing at visitors' centers worldwide, including the Mesa Arizona Temple Visitors' Center.

The movie features six Latter-day Saints from different cultures and their families. One of them, retired Colonel Gail Halvorsen, who became known the "Candy Bomber" during the Berlin Airlift in the 1940s, now lives in Arizona. (See article about "the Candy Bomber" in this edition of the Beehive.)

The Church debuted the movie in more than 400 U.S. theaters in October 2014. The film attracted capacity

audiences, with many showings selling out in major cities and with the film earning the ranking of no. 10 nationwide in box office sales.

On January 1, in an effort to "make 'Meet the Mormons' more accessible to people around the world" all visitors' centers and historic sites of the Church began showing the film.

Then, in February, "Meet the Mormons" became available via television channels, including Comcast, Cox and DirecTV; and digital video on demand (VOD), including iTunes, Amazon Instant Video and Google Play. On March 31, "Meet the Mormons" will be available on DVD and Blu-ray.

The Mesa Visitors' Center, at 525 E. Main, is open daily 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Long-Time Educator Dies
Continued from pg. 9

Arizona dealer for one of the country's largest school bus manufacturers.

During his long career, George received numerous awards and recognitions. For six years he served on the Arizona State Board of Education, he was founding president of the Arizona School Administrators, and was appointed twice by President Ronald Reagan to serve on the President's Intergovernmental Advisory Council on Education. At the time of his death, he was serving on the board of the East Valley Institute of Technology Foundation.

George and Mary Alice served for many years as ordinance workers in the Mesa Arizona LDS Temple. Mary Alice passed away in 2004.

George also was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Howard Jr. and James; sister, Mary Jarvis; and grandson, Mark Johnson. He is survived by daughters, Diana Thomas (Charles) of Mesa and Jennifer Johnson (Richard) of Bountiful, Utah, and sons, David (Laura) and Scott (Kimberly), both of Mesa, as well as 17 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren.

"My faith gives me comfort that my father is in a better place, but I'm going to miss him dearly...literally thousands of others whose lives he touched both directly and indirectly will also miss him," Scott says. "I am so thankful he was my father."



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The East Kimball Quilters

are on a Mission of Love

By Kathi Ogden
The Beehive

What does a 97 year old retiree and a group of 25 women have in common? They all love to quilt!

The Kimball East humanitarian group is a very busy group. They meet every Thursday morning at the stake center, from 10 a.m. to noon, and they get a lot done in just those few hours.

They are busy quilting, crocheting, sewing, looming hats and making a few new friends.

In the past, the group would pick up humanitarian kits from the humanitarian center (now the Inter-stake Center), complete the kits, and return them back to the humanitarian center for distribution. Since the closing of the humanitarian center, all items are now made completely from member donations of yarn and materials, and all are distributed locally, guided by each local stakes' needs.

According to Kristin Durrant, the Kimball East Stake humanitarian leader, last year they finished and do-

nated 160 quilts, 316 crocheted, knitted or loomed hats, 52 book bags, 64 pairs of crocheted slippers, 73 crocheted lapghans (lap-sized afghans) and 30 aprons to organizations such as A New Leaf, the Citadel Assisted Living and the Montecito Care facility.

Brother Mac Matheson is a big part of that group. He and his wife, Ouida May, had celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary before she passed away a few years ago. As a widower, with time on his hands and a desire to serve, Mac learned to sew. He puts together the beautiful quilt tops and passes them on to the Kimball East Stake humanitarian group (dubbed the "Kimball East quilters"), who finish them, and send them off to find a new home at the A New Leaf shelters or somewhere else they are needed.

The quilts are made assembly line style, starting at the quilting frames, where they are tied, then moved on to the trimming and pinning tables. Last, they go to the sewing table for the



Photo By Jill Adair

Using quilt tops provided by 97-year-old Mac Matheson, Kristin Durrant and the other East Kimball Quilters meet every Thursday morning to finish quilts that are then donated to shelters or care centers.

final stitching.

For those who prefer to do other things, there is also a crocheting table set up.

His daughter, Leileen Waite, is one of approximately 25 women who help with finishing off the quilts. "He loves to work on projects," she says. She takes precut quilt squares to him and helps him lay out the fabric with different colors and patterns in artistic and creative ways. He then sews them together throughout the week. Leileen says her dad is self-taught and did not really start sewing till later in life. Mac

also donates book bags, which he sews himself, for the kids in the programs. Besides sewing for humanitarian service projects, he also spends time helping to do name extractions online, to help with family history work.

Brother Matheson, along with the group of ladies, find a lot of joy and satisfaction in knowing that the service they give, from their hearts and their hands, goes to making others happy and comfortable.

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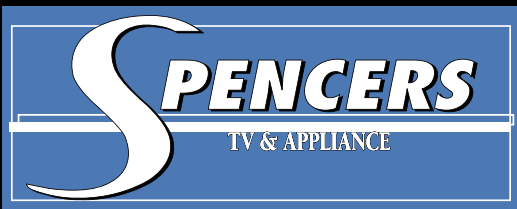
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Country-Music Great Delights Arizona Audiences with Troubadour-Style Entertainment

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The country-music great and Grammy-award winner, Billy Dean, is spending his winter season in Arizona, performing at the Dutton Theater Mesa and in other venues in Arizona and surrounding states, delighting audiences with his rich vocals, his skills on the guitar and his easy, captivating storytelling style.

Having sold more than 5 million albums worldwide, with 11 Top Ten singles, five of them in the number ones slot, Billy has long been recognized both for his singing and songwriting abilities. He has been nominated for every major music award, winning both “Song of the Year” and “Top new Male Vocalist of the Year” in 1992. Later, he received the “Album, and Producer of

the Year” award.

In more recent years, Billy’s musical focus has been on mastering the art of the solo performing troubadour, showcasing his skills as an accomplished guitarist, songwriter and vocalist.

“I quit chasing celebrity status a long time ago. Instead, for me, it’s about me and my guitar, about singing and storytelling. It’s my favorite way of performing,” Billy says.

He adds, “I love being out west here. In this area of the country, people appreciate that art so much more. One people experience it, they come back and enjoy it again.”

He takes the stage in the Dutton’s Mesa theatre on weeknights through



Photo courtesy Billy Dean

Country music great and Grammy award winner, Billy Dean, who has sold more than 5 million albums worldwide, has spent the last several weeks in Arizona, performing guest concerts at The Dutton Theater in East Mesa

March. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights though April 4, The Duttons perform in their Mesa venue.

The Duttons are international touring and recording artists. The three-generations of musicians play everything from bluegrass to classical in their shows, featuring a variety of

instruments: violin, guitar, bass, viola, banjo, mandolin, keyboard, harmonica and drums among others. The Duttons have won recognition in national fiddling contests, as studio musicians and in classical violin competitions.

Based in Branson, Mo., The Duttons have come to Arizona each winter for the past seven years. This year, the family invited Billy Dean, who is also based in Branson, to join them.

Among Billy’s most popular songs are “Somewhere in my Broken Heart,” “Billy the Kid,” “Let Them Be Little.”

Another song that has become his favorite and that he uses to close each of his concerts is “I am a Child of God.”

“It’s a perfect song. It has a perfect melody, a perfect message and lyrics,” Billy says, “and it fits with the themes that have run through my career

Billy was introduced to the song by LDS pianist, Marvin Goldsmith, who lives in Billy’s hometown.

“I fell in love with it right away,” Billy says. Since then, he has sung it often, and has recorded it with Thurl Bailey and Marvin Goldstein on the album titled “Friends and Brothers.”

Learn more about Billy Dean at www.billydean.com

For more information about upcoming Arizona concerts or to buy tickets for Billy Dean or The Duttons, visit www.theduttons.com or call 1-888-388-8661.

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Neighbor Creates 3D Prosthetic Hand for Six-Year-Old Born Without Fingers

By Katherine Mike
The Beehive

What started out as a simple request on social media, turned into a life changing experience for six-year-old Anny Johnson in the Sierra Ranch ward, Queen Creek East Stake. Anny was getting ready for kindergarten last summer when she met Brandon Henrie, AKA Hank, from the Castlegate Ward also in the Queen Creek East Stake.

Anny was born missing all the bones in her three fingers with significantly shortened or missing bones in her thumb and pinky. It made simple tasks like writing and holding silverware with her right hand difficult. She was nervous to start kindergarten and didn't want to be teased for having no fingers.

Anny's mother Stacy had seen a video about a child whose father had created a plastic hand for his child from a 3D printer.

"When I saw that video, I knew I wanted one of those for Anny. Since they cost pennies on the dollar compared to traditional prosthetics, I knew I could afford one. I put the request on my Facebook page and a few hours later a friend I met at girl's camp replied and said her husband had a 3D machine in their home. He said he would be happy to help." Help was literally within walking distance.

Hank's childhood on the farm taught him to improvise and create.



Photo by Stacy Johnson

Anny Johnson shows off her pink hand made by neighbor Hank Henrie using 3D technology which cost pennies on the dollar compared to traditional prosthetics.

Continued on pg. 22

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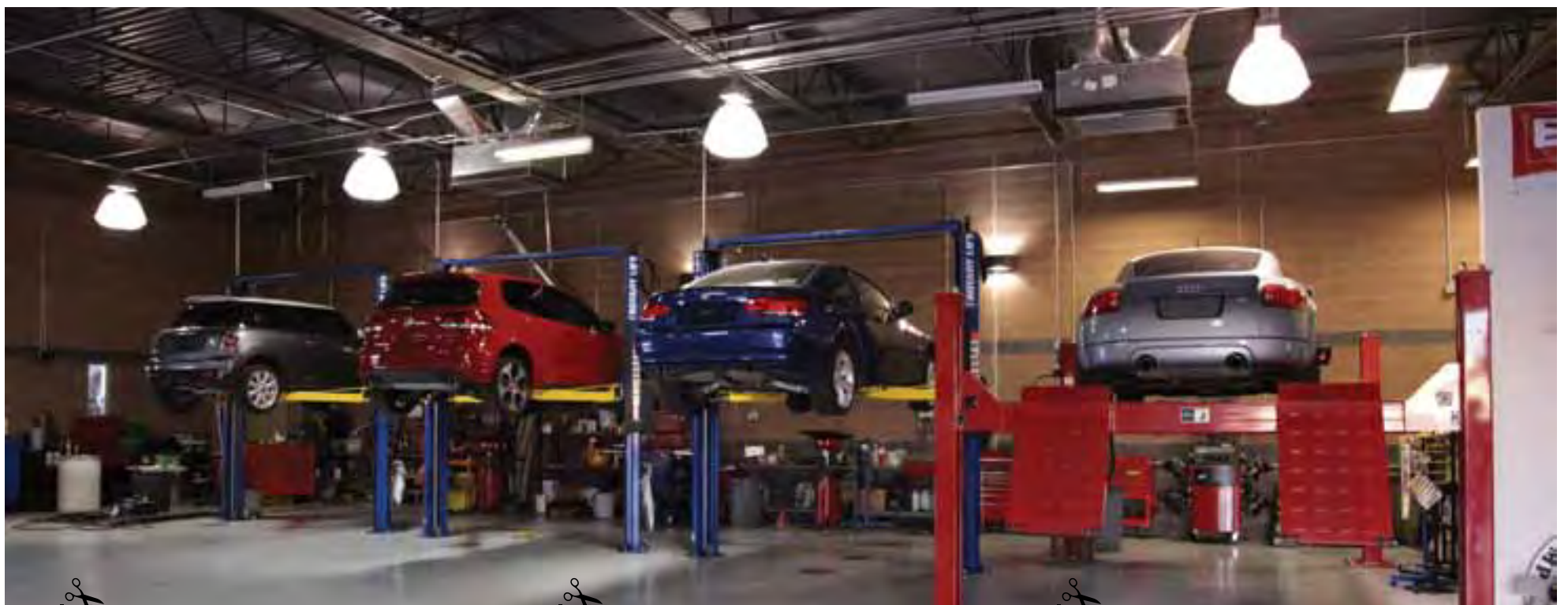
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Prosthetic Hand for Six-year-old Continued from pg. 19

“On the farm if it breaks you fix it. If you need it, there was no Home Depot or Pottery Barn to get things; you just made them.”

Those innovative skills came in handy later in life when he became interested in the sport of motocross. “When we go to the dunes, you are required to use a fiberglass flag mounted to the bike. I was less than excited with the options out there of mounting the flag, so I broke it down into pieces starting with what I didn’t like about the setups. I’d start solving each little piece till I came up with something that was better than everything I had ever used. I started a company called ZENXTEN hoping it could subsidize some of my extra-curricular activities.” That’s why he has a 3D machine in his home.

Hank’s process was mostly visual. He started with a rough sketch of Anny’s hand and arm. From there, he designed his first prototype. It was sized several times, and as Anny practiced with it, they figured out what worked and what didn’t, and then made modifications. The final product allows Anny to bend her hand at the

wrist causing the fingers to close making a fist. She uses her own thumb and her pink pointer finger to grab smaller items. Learning to use her new hand has been slow, but Anny says, “it’s cool and the other kids think it’s awesome too. I’m not the girl with no fingers, I’m the girl with the pink robot hand.”

Additionally, Hank provided all the labor and supplies for free. “How could I not? If I were to guess at how much time, it wasn’t a lot, maybe ten to twenty hours of design and research....A year earlier, I would have had a rough go...that’s just how the Lord works. When the timing is right things just come together with faith and hard work.”

Hank is currently making a hand with a motor for a 14-year-old boy who heard about Hank through Facebook. He is also laying the foundation for a non-profit group to provide hands at no cost for children with limb differences. Hank adds, “There are options for more than just hands, we are only limited by our imagination.”

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Easter Pageant

Offers Opportunities to Feel & Share the Spirit of Christ

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Every year, in a splash of rich colors, inspiring music, dance and drama, the Mesa Arizona Easter Pageant brings to life the miracles and mission of Jesus Christ.

Known as the largest outdoor Easter pageant in the world, the Mesa Pageant offers a powerful reminder of the true messages of Easter.

"We have access to so many things with just 'one click' on our computers and our phones, it is easy to get wrapped up in our busy lives and lose sight of what is truly important," says pageant director, Jenée Prince. "Our desire is that those who come to the pageant will leave feeling more joy, more love, more hope, and more acceptance through the atonement of our Savior."

Every year, the pageant comes with fresh opportunities to build testimonies and to draw nearer to Christ.

"I have seen the pageant many, many times over the past 10 years," Jenée says. "I know the soundtrack and entrance cues by heart, but I am always amazed at how many 'new' things I see and feel each time I watch the pageant. The pageant strengthens my testimony and expands my understanding of my Savior."

She says all who attend can have that same experience.

"Families can expect to feel the spirit touch their hearts many times during the pageant. I think it's important for parents to talk to their children about the Holy Ghost and the good feelings they will have."



Photo by Steve Porter

The Mesa Easter Pageant portrays the life and mission of Jesus Christ and gives those who attend an opportunity to draw closer to the Savior and celebrate the true meaning of Easter.

Jenée adds that parents can help their children understand the various pageant scenes.

"If parents explain the Last Supper, it will take on new meaning as their children watch it portrayed during the pageant. The same holds true for the 10 Virgins parable, the Triumphal Entry and the other scenes."

"Like reading the scriptures, rather than looking for something new in the pageant, what needs to change are our own eyes and hearts, so we see it anew," says event spokesman, Stephen Harms. "The pageant lets the commu-

nity know that we, as members of the Church, believe in Christ. It also allows the light of Christ to reach and lift every individual who attends."

For that reason, he suggests, "Bring someone who hasn't been to church in a while, who hasn't been able to feel the spirit in their lives for some time, or who has never had a chance to know Christ. Bring those who were invited to the temple open house and would now like to know more," Harms says.

The website, at www.easterpageant.com.

Continued on pg. 24

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Mesa Easter Pageant Continued from pg. 23



Photo by Steve Porter

In the inspiring finale of the Mesa Easter Pageant, high atop the five-story stage, angel dancers praise the resurrected Jesus Christ while the entire 450+ cast members join in singing and testifying, "I Know He Lives."

org, includes information and frequently asked questions as well as a video clip that can be shared. Also use the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MesaEasterPageant) to share the pageant with friends and family.

This year, the 65-minute performances begin at 8 p.m., with English performances March 25, 26, 27 and March 31 through April 4 and a

Spanish performance March 28. ASL translation will be available March 25 through 27.

The pageant is performed on the north lawn of the Visitors' Center, 525 E. Main Street. Admission is free and free parking is available on adjacent streets, with handicap parking and tour bus parking in the lot east of the Visitors' Center.

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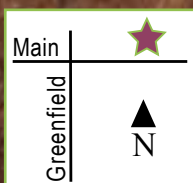
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BYU Management Society Announces New Chapter, Coming Meetings

The BYU Management Society, a business professional organization sponsored by the Brigham Young University Marriott School of Management, with more than 100 chapters around the world, now has two chapters in Arizona. The Arizona Management Society meets in the East Valley, while the new Phoenix chapter is for those who live or work on the west side.

Members include BYU alumni as well as many other business professionals and alumni of other universities who are looking for an association that centers on the standards and values adhered to at BYU. The chapters meet regularly for luncheon meetings that feature a speaker or discussion.

The stated vision of the Management Society is "Growing Moral and Ethical Leadership around the World," and the association's pur-

pose includes career enhancement, networking, service to BYU, and service to the local community.

The Phoenix Chapter was formally organized on February 13, 2015. For more information about this new chapter visit: <https://phoenix.byums.org>, or contact Donovan Seguritan directly at donovan.seguritan@gmail.com.

In March, the Arizona chapter, which meets regularly at EVIT in Mesa, will have a panel discussion on "The Inside Scoop on Employment." In April, they will have a joint meeting with the J. Reuben Clark Law Society chapter, and in May, Heather Sandstrom, will speak about her grandparents, President Ezra Taft and Flora Benson.

For information about upcoming meetings of the Arizona Management Society visit arizona.byums.org.

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"Ideal High" Has High Ideals

First time author Valerie Ipson releases her first book, "Ideal High"

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

LDS author, Valerie Ipson released her first book, *Ideal High*. "My book is a young adult contemporary story... set in the Texas Panhandle in the fictitious town of Ideal. The title 'Ideal High' is the name of the local high school," explains Ipson.

The blurb on the back of the book states, "There's no way Taryn Young's taking her late boyfriend's place



Book cover by Niles Giberson

as president of the student body. She prefers to grieve in private, not center stage in front of the entire school. When the memorial for her seven classmates is over, she's resigning as VP. Really. Except when she finds out a bullied student started the tragic fire, she's forced to come out from under her paisley comforter to

get to the truth. It's what her boyfriend would have done, and *Ideal High* has had enough victims.

The problem is maybe the bullied student didn't do it, and he has a very determined brother set on clearing his name. The truth kept hidden guarantees someone else will get hurt, and Taryn might miss the chance to heal her heart."



Photo by Landi Johnson



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Arizona writer, Susan G. Haws finds, "When you read *Ideal High* the characters and their problems feel authentic. You know you could walk on campus and recognize each of the students you meet in the book."

Ipson, the mother of eight and grandmother of three, says the idea for the story came from a time in junior high where she witnessed some bullying, but was afraid to speak up.

"As an adult I have often thought about a particular girl from my junior high who no one ever spoke to. It was as if she was invisible. I feel sad that I never even tried to say a kind word to her," admits Ipson.

Later, Ipson attempted to write a poem about what she would say to the girl now if given the chance, but the poem was a "huge fail." Around this time, she read a news article about a bus accident where several students from a high school were killed returning from a school event. This made her wonder what it would be like to begin a new school year after losing so many of your fellow classmates. How would things be different?

"Then I remembered the girl from my junior high. Would the deaths of so many popular students somehow also affect those that are bullied or ignored? The concept for *Ideal High* was born. Bullying is not the whole focus of my novel. At its heart, is a story of a girl trying to overcome a tragic event. As she goes through that process, she heals more than herself."

Ipson serves as the Stake Relief Society President in the Mesa Skyline Ward. Her book will be available on Amazon. For more information, go to www.valerieipson.com.



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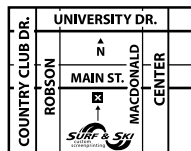
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IN THE MOMMY ZONE...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

Three weeks ago, literally a third of our children moved out, two of our six kids left home and I'm not sure how I feel about that.

Earlier, our oldest son returned from serving a two-year church mission, and recently reinstigated his pursuit of a college degree. Our second eldest son, taking a year's worth of university classes before his own two-year mission, had been at school for a full semester already and had moved back home during his winter break.

Our entire family of eight was finally all together once again for a full month of holiday bliss, a joyous phenomenon we hadn't experienced in years. We had a grand holiday, of which I frequently mentioned that this might be the last time all eight of us would be together as a family, due to upcoming missions, marriages, schooling, and the like.

We ate extraordinary meals together, traveled north to savor the snow, built campfires, and poured over ancient family videos of treasured years past. I dared time to stand still so I could relish in our precious family

togetherness, but it streaked by all too soon. The inevitable, fateful day finally came to say our goodbyes.

I was wary of the whole idea. I knew I couldn't hold onto my eldest sons forever, that our family unit was still somehow intact, but moving two children in one day can be tough on a mother.

There I was, forced to deposit our sons on their own, one on the doorstep of a university dormitory and the other, on the threshold of a foreign apartment complex nearby, both poised to enter the university phase of his life.

I wondered how I'd be able to do it, one child leaving the nest was heartache enough, but two on the same day seemed overwhelming. My inner turmoil churned. I knew that they'd both lived on their own already, but I finally had each family member home for a felicitous, albeit brief, time and I was not going to give that up easily.

With a heavy heart, I left each son, in turn, on the brink of their new lives. Each time I drove away, I checked to see if either son looked back to acknowledge his mother, knowing

full well that he wouldn't and even shouldn't. Both had new thresholds of their own to cross, independent of me.

Granted, there's much more room in the house these days and the table isn't as crowded, or loud, at dinnertime. Their old bedroom can breathe easier with two less young men bursting at its seams. The refrigerator food definitely lasts longer and I make fewer trips to the grocery store, but it's bittersweet.

Yes, I knew it was time to let them go, again. It's supposed to be this way, but I couldn't help feeling melancholy about these new-fangled growing pains I had just developed.

The pleasures and pains of parenting never cease. I guess I still have some lessons to learn, it comes with the mothering territory. My tender growing pains aren't front-page news, but they're real and life-altering for me.

Over the past few weeks, I've learned that being a mother is timed and precious, children never stop growing. They say time waits for no man, nor mommy for that matter.

Nevertheless, I still have four children at home that need me. Our family is definitely shrinking, but in a good way. I guess it's time to instigate a fresh "Mommy Zone," one that constantly ebbs and flows, a beauty called motherhood that's worth all the effort, despite fleeting growing pains.

LDS Comedy

Continued from pg. 12

fact that they were also from the same ward. "I didn't remember him 'cause I hadn't seen him in 15 years and he's five or six years younger than me," Adam clarifies.

Ultimately, Adam hopes to change "people's first assumption," that "Inspired Guns" is just another Mormon comedy. "This is a situational comedy that includes LDS missionaries," Adam says. That's the reality of it. I could have done Jehovah's Witnesses just as well."

And while Adam "didn't set out to make" a movie that would change "everyone's lives," he does want everyone "to walk away from the movie saying, 'that was so good and I want to watch it again!'" The film isn't without a good message though, one being, "don't judge people." However, his "number one goal," was to "give clean entertainment" that was also "entertaining."

Since "Inspired Guns," Adam has continued to work on various projects, but he hopes to work on a "family fantasy" for the LDS audience next that has a "Lord of the Rings" type feel to it. Adam says it's the project "he's most excited about doing."

Meanwhile, "Inspired Guns" is available to buy on DVD from Deseret Book, Seagull Books and Amazon.com. You can follow Adam at his Twitter handle @realadamwhite and find updates on future projects at www.pitchwhiteent.com.

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How Doing Family History UNLOCKED a Long Held Family Secret



Photo Courtesy of Sandra Adragna

Arizona resident Sandee Adragna and her father Harold McCoury stop to take a quick photo together after meeting for the first time in Florida following half a century spent apart.

By Amber Topping
The Beehive

I never fully understood the significance of doing family history until I uncovered a long guarded family secret: that my grandfather Harold McCoury, who was assumed dead for 50 years, was in fact still alive and looking for his long lost daughter, my mother Sandee.

Growing up, all I knew about my grandfather was the story of his “death.” Turns out it was an elaborate lie concocted by my teenage grandmother, Jacqueline Brownell, and her mother Agnes meant as a way to protect her reputation. After they both passed away, the mystery of who Harold was went with them.

The mystery began to unfold, however, when the famous bluegrass group, The Del McCoury Band shared some genealogical information with us about the McCoury family line. From there, I borrowed a few tips from *Who Do You Think You Are* and began digging. I wanted to be able to fill in our family tree, but how could I if I couldn't even confirm Harold's actual identity?

One day, frustrated, I remember saying aloud to myself, “Grandma, it's time to let this secret go. Help me find him.” Literally, a few minutes later I found the one clue that connected it all together. This clue then led me to the

record of a living Harold McCoury on ancestry.com. Eventually, I discovered this same Harold McCoury happened to be on Facebook. But was this my mother's father?

Almost immediately after my mother sent him a message, Harold responded. Over the phone, he confirmed that he was in fact her father. But then he made a shocking revelation: He had been looking for her for 50 years!

A few months later, we drove to Florida to meet him. I stood as a curious observer as this “stranger” cried tears of joy and gave his daughter a hug for the first time. My mother describes the experience as “exciting.” She says, “it opened a new world into my mother's life as a young girl I never knew before.” She further clarified that meeting her birth father didn't take away from what she already had with the father who raised her. “It just added to it.”

Later, Harold revealed the truth. When he first learned of the pregnancy, he ran off a scared teenager. However, a few months later Harold returned, only to find Jacqueline gone. He wanted to make up for his mistake, but he was too late. Harold says he

Continued on pg. 29

eventually received one letter with a baby photo and a first name, but no return address was included. He never stopped looking. I suppose we'll never know if my Grandma ever received the many letters he tried sending to her last known address.

Today, my mother and grandfather share a good relationship and talk regularly on the phone. We've also added many new McCoury names to the family tree. Who knew that doing family history was the key to unraveling this extraordinary mystery?

Do you have an interesting family history story to share? Contact me at ambertopping@hotmail.com

Family History Tip: Did you know that all LDS members can now access ancestry.com for free? Go to <https://familysearch.org/partneraccess> to sign up.

Banquet to Honor Golden Rule Award Recipients

The Arizona Interfaith Movement announces its annual Golden Rule Awards Banquet, an annual event to recognize individuals who have made a substantial contribution to their community.

Radio and TV personality Pat McMahon will emcee. Community members of all faiths are invited to attend and to participate in honoring this year's awardees, including for the Darl Andersen Award, Jimmy Walker; for the Religious Award, Pastor Tommy Barnett; for the Education Award, Genesis City, for the Karen Callahan Humanitarian Award, Circle the City; for the Sister Adele O'Sullivan Peace Award, Rana Singh Sodhi.

The event will be at the Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall on Thursday, April 16, 2015 with the Faith Fair and Reception beginning at 5:30 and the dinner and program beginning at 6:30 p.m. for tickets (\$80/person, \$600 for a table of 8) or for more information about this event and other events of the Arizona Interfaith Movement, visit www.azifm.org or call 602-261-6703

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Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Regarding Church Back Rubs and Other Irreverence

It's about dignity. It's about respect. It's about our Heavenly Father and Savior and responsibility to one another. It's about who we choose to be.

Forgive me revisiting the issue of church backrubs one more time in this space, but if anything, the problem seems to be worse since I referenced the impropriety of the odd public behavior several years ago.

For various reasons, my family and I have visited a number of Sacrament Services in various states and wards over the past few years. Back rubs are everywhere. Should we assume the intimate practice in church is all about our familial culture?

There seems to be the need for loved ones (oh, I hope they are loved ones) to be handling one another throughout our Sacrament Services, a gathering Elder Dallin Oaks tells us is the most "sacred and important" in our church due to receiving the sacrament. (Gen. Conf. 2008)

I've seen every form of massage. The deep neck rub, getting down into the muscle tissue, up into the hairline. Then on to the full back massage; caressing, scratching as the receiver goes into some kind of

trance.

Not to leave another group out of the culture are the women who play with their hair, or their companion's hair (some play with young children's hair) throughout the service. Some braid, others just pet and paw – either their own or someone else's.

Then there are the "game players." In one ward, we were told the bishop specifically requested his members to put cell phones on "airplane mode" and put them away. Some simply ignored the request.

Why does it matter?

Elder Boyd K. Packer issues serious advice in regards to our personal responsibility in our worship services.

He says: "When we step into the chapel, we must!—each of us must—watch ourselves lest we be guilty of intruding when someone is struggling to feel delicate spiritual communications.

"Irreverence suits the purposes of the adversary by obstructing the delicate channels of revelation in both mind and spirit.

"Our sacrament and other meetings need renewed

attention to assure that they are truly worship services in which members may be spiritually nourished and have their testimonies replenished and in which investigators may feel the inspiration essential to spiritual conversion." (Conf. 1991)

Give me fussy children, parents busy quieting their little ones – none of that disturbs the spirit for long, but brothers and sisters ... petting and pawing one another? What are we thinking?

As for cell phones and game machines. Who owns our hearts? Our gizmos or the Lord?

It's wonderful we love one another. Family and friend affection is precious and God given, but "appropriate" is the guideline. There is a discreet option: Touchers could settle for holding hands in church and squeeze that hand as speaker's messages prompt sparks of sacred affection. Or how about a "quiet" arm around shoulders?

Dignity. Reverence. Respect for our fellow church goers? Who are we? It's an important question to ask when we seek to worship.



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From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

Making a Much-Needed Migration

Just as the travel website had promised, they were there. In a small eucalyptus grove near Pismo Beach, California, were thousands of monarch butterflies—thousands of them, clustered together, hanging in clumps among the sage-colored eucalyptus leaves, their vibrant orange and black colors folded together, revealing only the muted underside of their wings.

At first, we couldn't see them at all. They looked like a mass of dry leaves, simply an extension of the trees, but, as we watched, there would be a slight movement, a set of wings would open and we could see that the mass was made up of individual butterflies clinging together.

It was an amazing sight, one that can only be seen for a few weeks out of the year as the North American monarchs migrate to this small grove and to a few other places along the California. Knowing that this is the only kind of butterfly that migrates in this way, makes it all that more interesting. Unlike other butterflies that cuddle up for the winter and can survive as larvae, pupae or even as adults, monarchs

simply cannot live through the cold winters of the north where they spend their summer months.

Yet, scientists don't know why or how the monarchs consistently return to the same wintering sites. It's not that seasoned veterans lead the others back to Pismo Beach. Monarchs only live about six months, so each of them only makes the trip once. Yet, somehow these monarchs, led by some force of genetics, or instinct, know just when it's time to leave the northern climates before the life-threatening cold sets in. Then, guided by their invisible, inborn GPS, some of them fly as far as 3,000 miles to winter where it is warm. Once there, they somehow know that to find shelter from the rain and wind, and to generate warmth, they need to create a formation that provides a type of shingle effect, with one hanging on and draping its wings down over the one below.

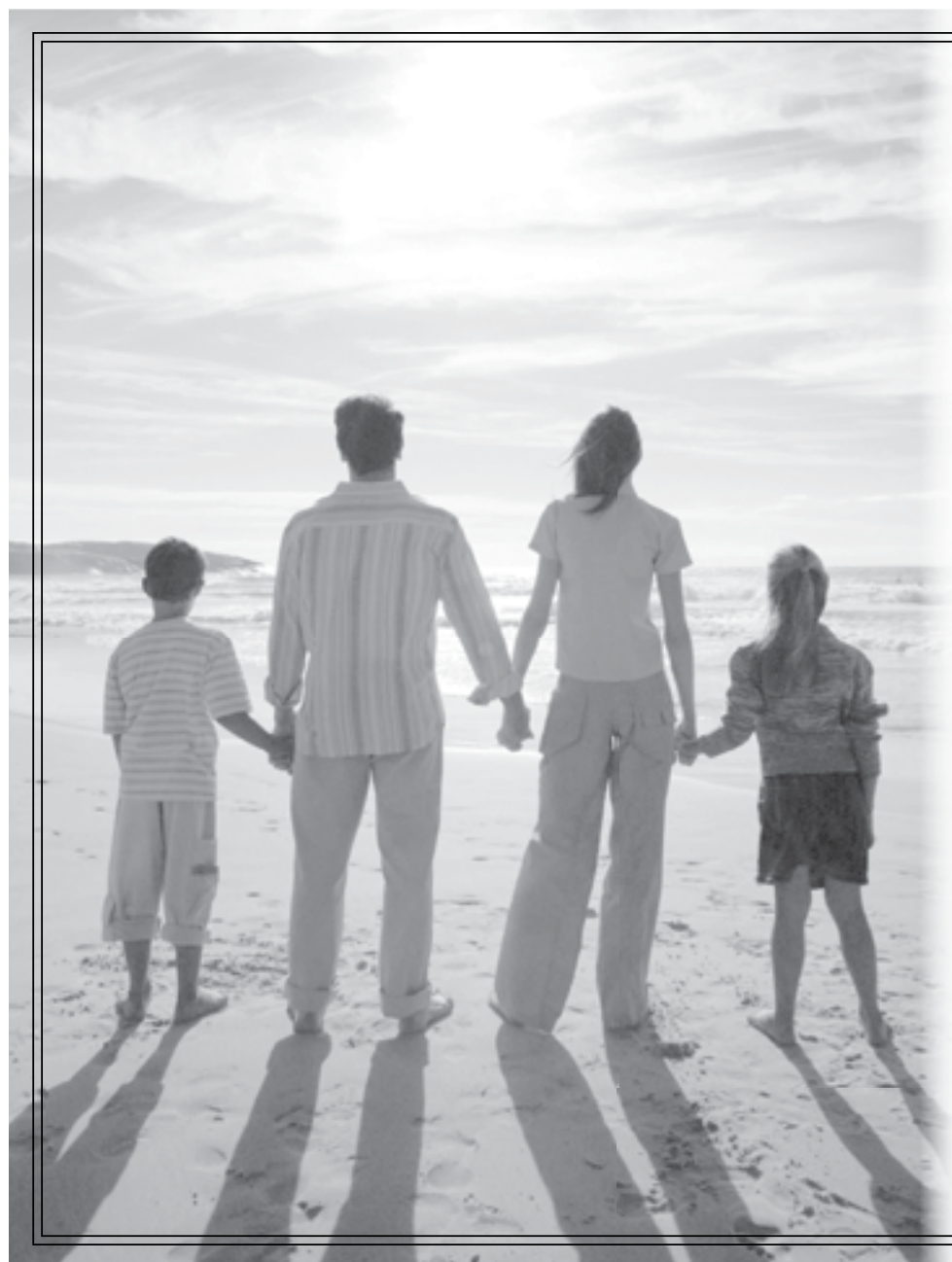
Researchers think their movement may have something to do with the magnetic pull of the earth, or the position of the sun, but they can't really explain it. It's all very fascinating and a little mind-boggling.

Yet, perhaps no more so than my own migration

to that particular spot at that particular time. Whether it was the magnetic pull of the earth, the position of the sun, or some other force at play, something had drawn me back to the place where I was born and raised. I had been there only a few months before, but there I was again, soaking up some of the ocean spray, watching the sunshine burn off the fog and traipsing past the several different homes where I had spent my childhood.

On the surface, it looked like a birthday trip. My mother was turning 87 and my sister and I were taking her to see her sister and her nieces. That alone was well worth the trip.

Yet, looking closer, there was something else at play. Something drove me to return to that place of safety and of warmth. Something moved me to hang together with a sister, an aunt, and cousins, shingle-style and sheltered. Call it survival instinct if you will. Whatever it was has given me strength to again spread my wings and fly.



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Welcome Home Ranch Offers Former Addicts a **Fresh Start**

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Joshua Bartlett smiles broadly and tips the brim of his cowboy hat as he strolls confidently past the covered arena and toward the stables, pointing out the outbuilding he helped construct a few months ago and explaining his leadership role at Welcome Home Ranch.

It hasn't always been that way. A year ago, Joshua was living in Virginia and nearing his 23rd birthday. "I had been kicked out of yet another rehab program, and I was really a mess. My life was totally out of control," he says. When he passed out at Thanksgiving dinner, his mother knew it was time to do something—again.

She had heard about Welcome Home Ranch. Located on Val Vista Dr. near Hunt Highway, Welcome Home Ranch is a working horse ranch, with a feed store, orchard, vegetable gardens and an arena used for various community events. It also is home to the John

Volken Academy, a long-term residential drug and alcohol treatment center.

The Academy is named for its founder, a Canadian Latter-day Saint and now-millionaire who, at one time, was down and out himself.

"The academy is not like anything else out there," Volken says. "Here, the students learn the life-skills needed for sobriety to work."

"It's really not an addiction recovery program," says Don Stapley, a member of Cooley Park Ward, Mesa Citrus Heights Stake, and a Welcome Home Ranch board member. "It's a therapeutic community that offers long-term healing, a fresh start, and a new, clean-living environment."

Another board member, Doug Hubbard, of the Ahwatukee Groves Ward, Tempe West Stake, agrees, saying, "Many of the guys here have been in six or eight programs, and none worked. The thing is, they don't have



Photo by Cecily Markland

Founder of Welcome Home Ranch, John Volte (center), enjoys a break with students, Jordan Griffiths (l) and Trent Walker (r) in front of the feed store where students learn the basics of retail marketing.

addiction problems, they have life behavior problems."

At the ranch, formerly addicted men, ages 18 to 34, participate in a two-year-plus program, learning life behaviors, like how to stay on a schedule, how to make good decisions and how to work hard. They learn principles of leadership and are given opportunities to lead teams. In addition, an online program is available for those who need to resume their education and are ready to do so.

After one year, Joshua says, "I'm not ready to go out on my own yet, but I'm getting there. I never could have done this before. Now I have the necessary tools, and I've had a year to learn to deal with my emotions without turning to drugs. I will celebrate one year of sobriety in March and that is a big accomplishment."

Joshua knows the second year is important. "The success rate for some-

Continued on pg. 33

Life brings change, but families are *forever*



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one who has been sober a year is good, but it's 10 times better after two years sober."

Similar Volken Academy programs function in Vancouver, British Columbia, where students work in a warehouse-style grocery store and live in homes in the adjacent neighborhood, and in Seattle, Wash., students work in a furniture store called PriceCo and live in housing next door.

Volken's accomplishments have been praised by grateful parents and lauded by students who say his program is not only life-changing, but life-saving, and, in October 2014, the Dalai Lama presented Volken with a Humanitarian Award, "in recognition of his compassion and contribution to creating social change by effectively changing lives."

"He vowed several years ago to give everything back. He works 24/7 at these three programs and takes nothing for himself," Stapley says.

Volken says his "payment" is to see others succeed. "It's awesome when you see the change that comes in them. I thank Heavenly Father every morning and every night for the privilege of being involved."

For more information, visit welcomeranch.com, volken.org or call 855-592-3001.

Mesa Public Schools Launches New App for Parents

By Courtney Mollineaux and
Laurie Struna
The Beehive

In January, Mesa Public Schools launched a mobile app designed to make information fingertip-accessible to parents.

Makes communication a snap

"In a fast-paced technological world, it is crucial that families have immediate access to their child's school news, updates and important contact information," shares Helen Hollands, director of communication and marketing. "This exciting tool expands the possibilities for communication between home and school, bringing news instantly to busy parents on the go."

User-friendly format

The user-friendly format pulls information directly from the district and school websites, giving parents access to their child's school, including contact to the office, attendance line and website. Parents may customize their use by selecting specific schools to receive information from, including news and calendar updates.

Hollands explains, "The uses for the app are endless. Think about the parent whose sick child is home with the sit-

ter. Mom is on her way to work and remembers she forgot to excuse the child from school. The app provides parents the flexibility they need to take care of their business."

Special features

There are special features that enable users to obtain pertinent information, such as lunch menus, athletic schedules and the parent/student portal.

Parents can access any of their accounts from the app. They can check a balance, pay a bill or even donate to the schools. It allows direct contact to the MyLunchMoney, MPS WebPay, Tuition Express and ECA contribution websites. The ease and simplicity of paying from a mobile device help to ensure on-time payments and updated accounts.

With a simple tap of the parent resource button, a wealth of information is available. For example, if a ques-

A new mobile app launched by Mesa Public School in January makes it possible for parents to have information at their fingertips.



Photo by Derek Dinsmore

tion arises regarding student dress, the "dress code" link in the parent resource section takes the user directly to the district's dress code policy.

As social media continues to explode as a communication and information outlet, the app provides instant convenience to the district's Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram pages. One touch and a parent can stay up-to-date of all the happenings throughout the district.

The Mesa Public Schools app is available for free download through Google Play for Android users and the Apple Store for iPhone/iPad users.

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Young LDS Songstress

Selected to Perform at Annual Conference in Las Vegas

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

By the time she was three, Celine Mireille Durney had already revealed her strong interest in music—and her talent was being recognized as well.

The daughter of Daniel and Linda Durney, of the Mesa 61st Ward, Mesa East Stake,

Celine grew up singing, performing as a soloist with a variety of signing groups, including at Mountain View High School. She won Mesa's Got Talent and was co-winner of Arizona's Got Talent and has performed for many local benefit concerts.

Now, a sophomore at Northern Arizona University, studying choral music education, Celine continues to earn recognition, performing recently at the ICCA West Quarterfinals at UCSD in La Jolla, Calif., and as the featured performer at the Prayer Breakfast of the International Franchise Association's Annual Conference in Las Vegas February 16.

About their selection, Michael Isakson, former IFA Board chairman, said, "We are excited to have Celine perform ..., and we are looking forward to her beautiful voice and spirit adding to the messages of inspiration provided at this annual event."

This all comes on the heels of the release this past summer of her CD, "How Sweet the Word."

A compilation of 13 hymns and children's songs, the CD was originally conceived as a gift for friends who were serving LDS missions.

"I wanted to give them something special that they would enjoy," Celine says. "I figured, what better way to show them I loved them, I wanted to encourage them and I supported them."

Nine of the 13 arrangements on the CD, Celine did herself, including the arrangement of "Joseph Smith's Prayer," which is a combination of four different melodies.

In this and in other musical endeavors, Celine says, "I see music as a way to express myself, and I am grateful for the creative abilities Heavenly Father has blessed me with so graciously. I'm definitely appreciative, and I always try to show that by sharing."

"I want to be able to use my music to show gratitude to Heavenly Father," Celine continues. "I especially want to be able to put my testimony into song."

Ultimately, Celine says, "I hope I can use my musical talent for good. Often music is used for the



Photo by Jasmine Durney

Celine Mireille Durney, who released her second CD, "How Sweet the Word," this past summer, was recently the featured performer for prayer breakfast at the International Franchise Association's Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

wrong reasons. I want to be able to help and inspire people always—to help people be more hopeful and, especially, to bring them closer to Christ."

Celine is preparing for a spring opera and working on the music for "Nine Months with Angels," a play written by Randy Lindsay that will debut in late 2015/ early 2016.

"How Sweet the Word" and her CD "730 Days," which contains two original and three cover songs, are available at www.celinemireille.com. For more information, text SINGS to 90210 or visit Celine's website.

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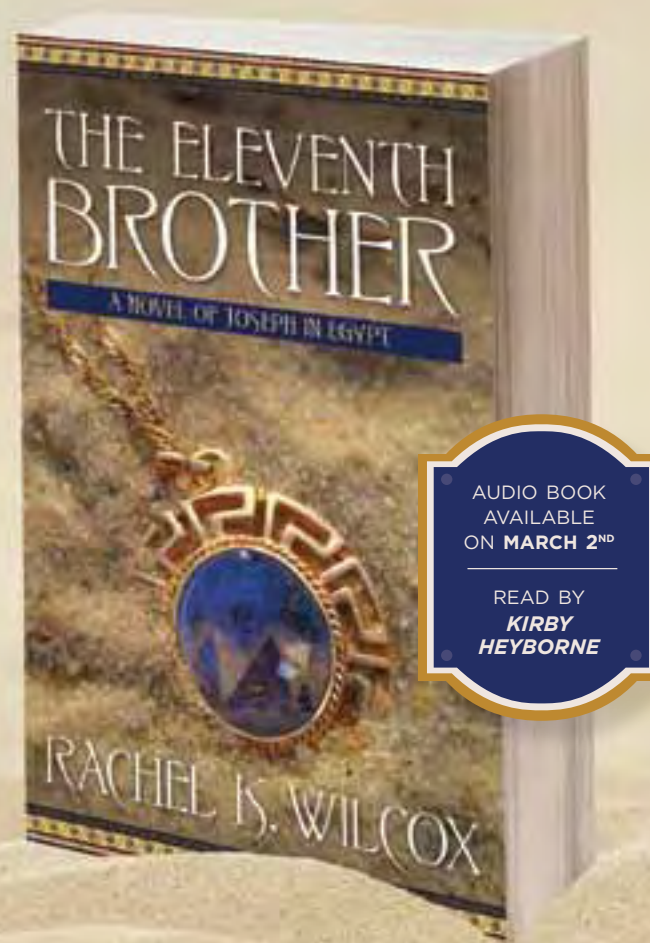
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Filmmaker Documents Deadliest Shootout in Arizona History

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Cameron Trejo's cinematography has taken him around the world, including to Brazil to film "I'm a Mormon," to southern Arizona, Mexico and Honduras for the "Reflections of Christ" and "Another Testament" documentaries; and to South Korea to do a piece on the reintegration of North Koreans.

Now, while his most recent project didn't take him far from his Arizona home, the making of a documentary titled "Power's War," transported Trejo and his team of collaborators back in time to delve deep into events surrounding the deadliest shootout in Arizona history.

The shootout of February 10, 1918, in a remote canyon in the Galiuro Mountains near Safford, though not as well known, was bloodier than the gunfight at the O.K. Corral. It also has been more controversial and had a much greater impact on individuals in that area and on the country as a whole.

That day, four lawmen approached the mining claim worked by Jeff Power, his sons, John and Tom, and hired hand, Tom Sisson. It was just months after the United States entered World War I,

and the lawmen carried with them arrest warrants for the two boys, alleged draft dodgers. When it was over, four of the eight men, including three of the lawmen, were dead, leaving 19 children fatherless.

The aftermath was replete with questions of who fired first and who shot who, as well as the larger questions having to do with a country at war and the changing face of the Old West.

"Power's War" began as a historical documentary about a somewhat unknown shootout and grew into a study about the effects of war on even the most average of citizens and the catastrophic effects of speaking out against said wars," says Trejo.

Those larger themes, as well as more personal aspects makes for a captivating story. "I was fascinated that people still had so many questions and were so passionate about this story," Trejo says, adding, "The cabin where the shootout occurred still stands, which I believe also helps keep the story alive. It's a remote hike, but those who have get to experience history, and they become even more intrigued with the Power shootout."



Photo by Steve Porter

Cameron Trejo (l), producer of the new documentary, "Power's War" with Thomas Cobb, an author and one of the dozens of individuals who were interviewed as part of Trejo's research for the documentary about the deadliest gunfight in Arizona history.

Trejo says he and his team have found the interest to be widespread.

"We've presented to a dozen historical conferences in three different states, each of them followed by adamant discussion about the century-old tale."

In producing the film, Trejo says, "I worked closely with lead researcher, Heidi Osselaer, who was very gracious with her time, and we also collaborated very heavily with Arizona State University Library Archives, Arizona Historical Society, AHS of Tucson, and the list goes on and on. Roughly a year and half was dedicated to hunting down any detail we could find on the Power family and the shootout of 1918," Trejo says.

Other collaborators on the project were co-producer, Dagen Merrill, who has directed five feature films, cinematographer, Wesley Johnson, a native of Mesa, and writer and award-winning documentarian Dodge Billingsley; and they traveled to New York to record with narrator John Slattery.

"Power's War" is scheduled to be shown at various screenings and festivals. To learn more and to find a listing of screenings, visit www.powerswar.com. The PowersWar Facebook page also has comments from family members and other interesting posts.

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The San Tan Memorial Gardens Offers a Beautiful *Final Resting Place* in the Southeast Valley

By Emily Jex Boyle
The Beehive

Two years ago, the beautiful San Tan Memorial Gardens opened in Queen Creek, Arizona. It is currently the only cemetery in the Queen Creek, Gilbert and southeast San Tan Valley and is located on a 40-acre portion of the Schnepf Farms.

Schnepf Farms was designated as an official "Arizona Treasure" by former Governor Janet Napolitano. The natural vistas of trees and mountains seen from the Memorial Gardens are priceless, with beautiful views of orchards as well as the San Tan and Superstition Mountains.

Dillon Benavides, San Tan Memorial Gardens' acting manager-in-training, says, "We are here to provide a quiet and peaceful final resting place for our loved ones, right here in the Southeast

Valley."

While other cemeteries are starting to fill in the Valley, the Memorial Gardens have the plans and the space to be able to serve families for the next 100 years. Currently spaces are available on 7 of the 40 acres at the Memorial Gardens.

Schnepf Farms has been caring for customers in the community for over 70 years. While Schnepf Farms is now owned by Mark and Carrie Schnepf, it was Mark's father who had always hoped to provide a cemetery for the community in the Southeast Valley. Mark is pleased to be able to help his father's dream become reality.

The San Tan Memorial Gardens is part of a long-term plan to maintain the Schnepf Farms reputation and is



Photo courtesy San Tan Memorial Gardens

The San Tan Memorial Gardens, the only cemetery in the Queen Creek, southern Gilbert and San Tan Valley area, offers families in the Southeast Valley a beautiful and peaceful final resting place for their loved ones.

an opportunity for the Schnepf family to continue a family tradition of being able to offer something of value to the community.

Dillon says, whether they are assisting with a family's immediate need or with future planning, the Memorial Gardens' staff is committed to customer service and will be kind and sensitive to each family's concerns and situation.

The Memorial Gardens currently employs three grounds crew, one family counselor, one manager and one manager in training. Dillon says the staff can help with proper burial method selection and other concerns.

"We offer casket, urn and cremation burial. In the future we will also have a mausoleum with crypts and niches," he

says. "We highly recommend making an appointment with one of our family counselors to determine what burial choice is right for you."

"The Memorial Gardens are financially endowed to ensure perpetual care," Dillon adds.

For years, Schnepf Farms has been dedicated to preserving history. The San Tan Memorial Gardens is prepared to preserve and care for a part of your family's history. Visit them at 22425 East Cloud Road in Queen Creek, any time Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by appointment after hours and on weekends. For further information, contact San Tan Memorial Gardens at 480-987-2488 or visit www.santanmemorial.com.

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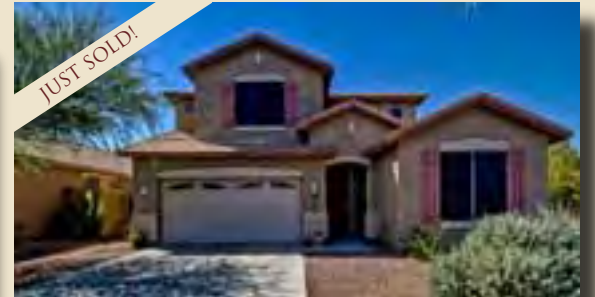
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